

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0471

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ETEL, BEXP, XF, AG, MO, SU

SUBJECT: ARAB FUND SIGNS TWO TELECOMMUNICATION PROJECT LOANS

REF: KUWAIT 5357 (NOTAL)

1. ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (AFESD) SIGNED
LOANS TALLING KD8.1 MILLION (KD1 - \$3.38) JANUARY 28. LOANS
WERE FOR MAJOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS IN MAGHREB AND SUDAN.

2. SUDAN AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF
MICROWAVE NETWORK LINKING KHARTOUM AND ATBARA, PORT SUDAN, AL
ABYAD, SINNAR AND KASLA. IN ADDITION AFESD LOAN WILL HELP
FINANCE EARTH SATELLITE STATION, TELEVISION TRANSMITTERS AND
EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT LOCATED ALONG PORT SUDAN-
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KHARTOUM OIL PIPELINE. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPLY AND

CONSTRUCTION OF AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN KHARTOUM, ATBARA, KASLA, KOSTI AND AL-ABYAD. TRAINING, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION/CONSULTING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED AS WELL.

3. THE SUDAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO LINK THE SUDAN WITH EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD. ITS TOTAL COST IS ESTIMATED TO BE KD 7.7 MILLION OF WHICH KD 4.8 MILLION ARE PROVIDED BY THE ARAB FUND. TERMS OF THE LOAN ARE 4 PERCENT INTEREST, REPAYABLE OVER TWENTY YEARS WITH A FOUR YEAR GRACE PERIOD. PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1977.

4. THE SECOND AGREEMENT SIGNED JOINTLY BY ALGERIA AND MOROCCO PROVIDES KD 3.3 MILLION TO BUILD A JOINT TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR SUPPLY AND CONSTRUCTION OF 630 KMS COAXIAL CABLE OF WHICH 560 KM WILL BE IN ALGERIA. THIS WILL LINK RABAT, MAKNAS, FEZ AND WAJDEH WITH TELMAS IN ALGERIA. AGREEMENT ALSO WILL FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING AND RELATED EQUIPMENT IN RABAT. TERMS OF LOAN ARE 6 PERCENT INTEREST REPAYABLE OVER 18 YEARS WITH FOUR YEAR GRACE PERIOD. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT IS KD 3.83 MILLION. PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1976.

5. COMMENT: AFESD LOANS ARE THOSE MENTIONED TO US BY ARAB FUND DIRECTOR SAEB JAROUDI SEVERAL WEEKS AGO (REFTEL). THEY ARE EVIDENCE OF HIGH PRIORITY ATTACHED BY AFESD TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS AREA. USDOC AND COMMERCIAL OFFICERS IN PARIS, TEHRAN AND BEIRUT REQUESTED BRING THIS REPORT TO INTERESTED AMERICAN FIRMS. STOLTZFUS

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